REMARKS

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). The Claims have been amended to cancel the features not shown in the drawings. Thus, the Applicant requests that the Examiner objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 and 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cain et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,197,821. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 10-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kallestad, U.S. Patent No. 4,652,173 and alternatively, Claims 1-5 and 7-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cooper, U.S. Patent No. 5,522,674.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicant's invention as now claimed is directed to an inflatable hose system comprising first and second hose lengths each having a first flattened and sealed end and a second end provided with one part of a two-part coupling. The two hose lengths are detachably coupled together, with or without the interpositioning of one or more additional lengths of standard hose to form an airtight continuous hose for use as a rigid flotational boom. The system also includes an inflation valve connected to at least one of the first and second hose lines thus, to enable inflation of an airtight continuous hose.

Thus, it is apparent from the description and the drawings, that the present invention provides an airtight continuous hose for use as a rigid floatable boom, which is comprised of individual hose lengths coupled together. The rigidity enables the composite boom to be pushed outwards across a stretch of water by pushing only one end. The rigidity is provided

solely by the air pressure within the continuous hose.

In Kallestad'173 the boom is formed of individual sections 10 in the form of curtains having inflatable upper portions 14. These sections are joined together mechanically by connectors 18 which again serve no function in providing airtight communication between the individual portions 14 to provide an airtight continuous hose.

On the other hand, in Cain et al.' 821, the individual members 36 are inflated and joined together by mechanical couplings 88. However, in contrast to the present invention, the couplings serve no function in providing airtight communication between the individual chambers to provide an airtight continuous hose, but are merely present to connect the individual chambers mechanically together to form the boom.

It is apparent from the description of the drawings that the present invention provides an airtight continuous hose for use as a rigid floatable boom, which is comprised of individual hose lengths coupled together. The rigidity which enables such a composite boom to be pushed outwards across a stretch of water by pushing only one end is provided solely by the air pressure within the continuous hose. This is completely different from the containment boom of Cain et al. and Kallestad, neither of which is comprised of an airtight continuous hose. There is nothing in either of these references to suggest the substitution of mechanical coupling, by couplings which provide airtight communication between the individual chambers to provide an airtight continuous hose. Additionally, there is no disclosure in the cited references that discusses the real advantages of the present invention, amongst which is

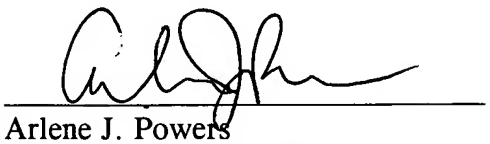
the ability to dispense with the specially made boom section such as those of the cited references which are required to be mechanically coupled together. Instead, the invention uses selected lengths of the standard hose which would normally be present or ready on a fire truck or the like. Thus, since the hose lengths of each end of the boom can be very short, and the intermediate sections could be comprised of the standard hose lengths already present on the fire truck, the system is extremely cost effective as well as being compact and portable. The boom maybe made as long as necessary by simply coupling the hose sections together to form a continuous hose using a standard hose coupling and inflating the entire hose length to form a rigid boom without need for rigid mechanical couplings, as in the cited references.

Cooper'674 is directed to a self-inflating containment boom. The boom is composed of a plurality of self-inflatable units 12. However, each unit is self containing. There are interlocking connectors 20 between each unit 12, but the air does not flow between each of the unit 12. Thus, there is no continuous airtight hose. Rather each unit has two end units to maintain the air with each individual unit.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of Claim 6. However, as Claim 1 has now been amended, the Applicant believes that the amended claims and the claims dependent there from are in proper form and the Applicant respectfully contends that Cain et al.'821, Kallestad'173 and Cooper'674 do not anticipate the claimed invention under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Thus, claims 1, 3-15 and 17 should be considered patently distinguishable over the prior art of record and in proper form.

The application is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited

Respectfully submitted,



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